

DoD expands dental program

New TRICARE contract enhances services to reservists, adds families

WASHINGTON – Starting Feb. 1, 2001, reservists and their families may participate in an expanded U.S. government dental program if the reservists express an intent to remain in the reserve for at least 12 consecutive months.

Enrollment in the new TRICARE Dental Program is voluntary and begins December 2000, with coverage effective Feb. 1, 2001. Service members enrolled in the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program or the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan are automatically enrolled in the new program.

To enroll, service members must have at least a one-year service commitment in the active force, reserve forces or a combination of the two. Under the new plan, all eligible family members of a sponsor will be enrolled if any family member is enrolled. Children under the age of 4 will not have to be enrolled. Also, the sponsor can only enroll family members from one location if family members reside in two or more geographically separated locations.

Reservists are currently eligible for the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program, which offers limited dental care for Selected Reserve reservists only.



A view from the inside.

Photo by Anthony Harper

The Department of Defense awarded a five-year, \$1.8 billion contract April 14 to United Concordia Companies, Inc., the current TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan administrator.

“With this new TRICARE Dental Program contract, we have addressed some important concerns of our beneficiaries,” said Dr. Sue Bailey, who was assistant secretary of defense for health affairs when the contract was awarded. “We will now offer a more uniform benefit across beneficiary categories and include our reserve component fami-

lies. The new contract offers expanded and improved benefits, and it solves some problems associated with the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program. We believe our beneficiaries will be pleased with this new dental plan.”

In the Air Force, the Selected Reserve includes about 60,000 reservists in the Air Force Reserve Command unit program and more than 12,000 individual mobilization augmentees.

Under the current Reserve dental pro-

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IMA commands active-duty SFS unit

By Richard Zowie

San Antonio Air Logistics Center Public Affairs

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Lt. Col. Cindy Hazelton, who took command of the 76th Security Forces Squadron here Nov. 9, is a different type of commander than most of her colleagues.

She is an individual mobilization augmentee.

Although she doesn't know of any IMA who has served as a commander in Air Force Materiel Command, she's fairly certain about one thing.

"If I'm not the first individual mobilization augmentee to serve as a squadron commander in AFMC, I'm probably the first female (IMA commander)," she said.

As members of the Selected Reserve, IMAs originally were supposed to serve in active-duty units as backfills for deployed positions. Now, these reservists supplement units wherever there's a need as downsizing has created a larger role for the IMA.

"The IMA program is a thoroughly-integrated program here at the squadron, and it's much different than it was when I first got here 14 years ago, when they didn't know what an IMA was," she said. "Back then, I was told by my first commander to sit at a desk and read regulations.

"Today, IMAs perform all duty functions here in the squadron, from entry control point to investigations and flight sergeants. I think I've had a positive mark on the active-duty thinking of reservists as part of the total family," Hazelton said.

She sees herself as a role model, not only for those in the IMA program, but for women serving in the Air Force Reserve Command unit program as well as the active force. "I want to be a positive role model for female security forces airmen so they can see



Hazelton

it's possible to be a female and obtain rank and a command position," she said.

Hazelton said she was able to become commander of the 76th SFS by spending a lot of time in the squadron on her own time whenever she was needed, by building credibility and by educating people on the IMA program. "I think all that hard work has paid off," she said.

She sees her job responsibilities as clear cut.

"My primary goal is to make the transition to Lackland AFB (Texas) as smooth as

possible, make certain that our people are trained and ready to perform the mission at Lackland, and ensure that our people are being taken care of," Hazelton said.

The 25-year Air Force veteran reflected on what she sees as the challenges awaiting today's Air Force.

"I think we need to focus on meeting the needs of the younger troops – teaching them to be professional and groom them for leadership positions," she said. "I think there needs to be a change in mentality to reach the troops entering the Air Force today. We're living in a completely different environment than when I came in the Air Force in 1978." (AFRC News Service)

ARPC clarifies performance of IDTs overseas

By Jim Jenkins

Plans and policy division

Changes now permit reservists to perform inactive duty for training, or IDTs, at foreign overseas locations on a limited basis. This change ensures reservists are protected under the Status of Forces Agreement while performing IDTs in foreign countries.

According to Air Reserve Personnel Center officials, performance overseas is limited to only those reservists who are actually assigned or attached to an overseas unit.

As a practical method of guaranteeing Uniformed Code of Military Justice, or UCMJ, authority over reservists assigned at foreign overseas locations, ARPC will extend the time for an IDT period, which now includes the minimum of four hours for pay and two hours for points only.

This extension covers reservists dur-

ing their entire period at the foreign overseas location.

In these circumstances, IDT periods may be extended up to 12 hours in length, depending on when the reservist reports for duty, to cover the entire period of time the member is at the overseas location. Moreover, this extension is valid even when the reservist is not actually training.

According to the new guidelines, there can be no more than two IDTs in a 24-hour period and this policy is in effect for foreign overseas locations only. All other IDT policies currently in AFMAN 36-8001 apply.

Regardless of the length of the tour, each IDT period is still worth only one point and one day's base pay. The purpose for the extended IDT periods is to provide full UCMJ coverage.

Under normal circumstances, these reservists will not be forced to train for

the entire 12-hour IDT period unless mission requirements dictate otherwise. This policy enables reservists, with a valid need, to train with units at locations where they will go to war.

Officials said that it's important to note that under no circumstances will reservists be allowed to perform IDTs in "Hostile fire" areas.

To make this new policy work effectively, program managers must actively educate reservists, supervisors and commanders about the changes.

Further, everyone performing IDTs in a foreign overseas location must be aware that these extended IDT periods typically vary from CONUS IDTs in length while the actual work periods and compensation are the same.

For more information, contact Jim Jenkins, HQ ARPC/XPX, at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71246, or E-mail Jim.Jenkins@arpc.denver.af.mil.

SGLI coverage increases to \$250,000

By SSgt. Bob Gullion

NCOIC, entitlements branch

Reservists' coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, will increase to the maximum coverage of \$250,000 April 1.

President Clinton signed Public Law 106-419, Sec. 312, Nov. 1 authorizing the increased insurance coverage. SGLI coverage is available in \$10,000 increments, at \$0.80 per \$10,000; The cost for \$250,000 coverage is \$20 a month.

Servicemembers currently covered by SGLI will not have to complete any forms in order to receive this new coverage amount, according to SGLI officials. Effective April 1, all military personnel subsequently covered by SGLI automatically

receive the maximum coverage.

Any participating member of the Ready Reserve is covered.

Only reservists who wish to be covered for a reduced amount or wish to decline, will be required to complete a new SGLI election and certificate form, SGLV Form 8286. Any elections for less than the full amount made prior to April 1 will be void, to include withdrawals from the program.

The new elections must be maintained in the member's personnel record, either at the unit level or at HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Also, those veterans (or reservists) who separate on or after April 1, will be eligible to convert their \$250,000 coverage to the Veterans Group Life Insurance, or

VGLI, program. Reservists retiring or separating on or prior to March 31 can only convert coverage for up to \$200,000 under VGLI.

Newer versions of the SGLV Form 8286 will be available by the Veterans Administration around April 1. When the form becomes available, members must go to their nearest military personnel flight, or MPF, to complete the SGLV Form 8286. All forms are required to be witnessed by MPF or unit personnel. Over the phone requests and incomplete forms are not accepted.

Instructions for completing the forms will be available from any MPF or by visiting the Veterans Administration's Web site at www.va.gov, once available.

Reserve hosts capitol's Christmas tree

By Maj. Tom Deall

Chief of public affairs

Taking its place in history, the 302nd Air Lift Wing hosted the 2000 Christmas tree destined for Washington, D.C.

As part of a project that started three years ago, the Capitol Christmas Tree was selected by Matthew Evans, architect of the Washington, D.C., capitol building.

Though originally planned to select a tree in Alaska, Evans found himself in Colorado three years ago when Alaska officials said they could not fill the requirement.

According to TSgt. David Morton, 302nd public affairs, the Millennium Tree was the first of 25 considered for the project. However, upon seeing the 66-foot, 77-year-old tree, Evans chose it immediately. Once selected, the three-year process began.

One of the greatest concerns when handling the tree was deciding where to store it while preparing it for the trip to Washington.

Bridging the gap between the Air Force Reserve and the civilian community was SMSgt. Tim Grantham.

Grantham, a propulsion shop mechanic with the 302nd and a member of the U.S. Forest Service, came up with the idea of storing the tree in an aircraft hangar.

Having the full support of his wing commander, Col. Rich Moss, Grantham approached his supervisor at the Forest Service. With approval at both ends, Grantham put the process in motion.

"Part of our mission in the Forest Service is to manage natural resources," said Grantham. "The trees are included among manageable resources and cutting is an important part of the project."



Photo by Maj. Tom Deall

Reservist SMSgt. Tim Grantham, a member of the U.S. Forest Service, came up with the idea of storing the tree in an aircraft hangar.

When asked about the effects of cutting such a prominent tree, Grantham said that there were many steps taken to ensure respect was maintained.

"During the cutting ceremony, a Native American representative said a prayer for the tree and the people," said Grantham. "It's also important to note that at no time did the tree touch the ground and from this one tree more than 500 trees will be planted across the country."

Grantham said that the team of people accompanying the tree to Washington is following the Sante Fe Trail. It's a two-week trek that also serves to help educate people on the importance of preserving and respecting nature.

Of the project overall, Grantham said that one of the most positive aspects was the 20 plus partners that came together. One of those partners, Debra Pepper of Triple-P Wrap it, Center, Colo., said working with the 302nd

helped change her mind about the military.

"I always thought of the military as stern and somewhat hard to work with," said Pepper. "Instead, I found people who truly cared and especially found Colonel Moss to be very much a people person. It's been an extremely positive experience."

Of the 302nd taking part in this history-making project, Morton said that it makes an important statement.

"Taking part in this project says that no matter the situation, the Reserve is always willing to step up to the challenge," he said. "Since this will most likely never happen again, it's something for which the command and the Air Force can be very proud."

Authorization act boosts benefits for reservists

WASHINGTON – More pay and better benefits highlight key provisions for reservists and Reserve retirees in the fiscal year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Oct. 30 by the president, the act authorizes a 3.7 percent military pay raise to take effect Jan. 1, 2001.

The act increases the maximum number of reserve retirement points that may be credited for inactive duty for training in a year from 75 to 90, which means reservists can earn a better retirement pension based on attending drills, performing annual training and completing correspondence courses.

Military retirees, including those from a reserve component, are required to switch from military health care to Medicare when they turn age 65. The bill authorizes TRICARE as a secondary insurance to Medicare Part B, starting Oct. 1, 2001. Retirees will still have to pay the \$45 fee a month for Part B, outpatient coverage but the military health care system is supposed to pick up annual deductibles and copayments for hospitalizations. The legislation also provides for comprehensive retail and national mail-order pharmacy benefits for Medicare-eligible retirees.

Thrift Savings Plan

Within 180 days after the act became law, unless postponed by the secretary of defense, reservists and active-duty members may deposit up to 5 percent of their basic pay, before taxes, each month in the Thrift Savings Plan.

They will also be allowed to deposit special pay, incentive pay and bonuses into the TSP account to the maximum amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code. Unlike the provision of TSP for federal civil service employees under the Federal Employee Retirement System, the government does not contribute matching funds. However, service secretaries can authorize contributions to TSP accounts of members serving in critical specialties as a retention incentive.

With the advice of the Thrift Board, the secretary of defense can postpone the effective date of the military TSP another 180 days but must tell Congress about the delay.

Many of the benefits offered by defense bills are also not immediate because DoD must implement policies and programs before those benefits are delivered to service members.

For example, in the past Congress has said reservists traveling to an inactive-duty for training location more than 50 miles from home should be eligible to stay in billeting on the same basis as active-duty people. The authorization act adds teeth to that claim by requiring DoD to put it into action with a regulation. The change should benefit individual mobilization augmentees the most because units usually provide IDT billeting for their reservists.

Space required travel, special duty pay

Reservists can avoid even more out-of-pocket expenses, since the authorization bill permits them to travel space-required on military aircraft to and from their home and the place of their annual tour and inactive-duty for training.

Just like last year's enlisted aviation pay boost, qualifying reservists may receive special duty assignment pay on a prorated basis during inactive duty for training periods. Instead of an entire month's allowance, they receive one day of pay for each drill period of duty. DoD and the services will determine who should receive special

duty assignment pay, which varies in amount according to the type of duty. The maximum monthly allowance for active-duty people jumped from \$275 last year to \$600 this year.

When performing funeral honors, reservists may request the \$50 stipend authorized by last year's authorization bill or one day of basic pay as if the duty were a unit training assembly.

Increase in AGR positions

With more missions going to reserve components, Congress authorized an increase in the number of members who can serve in full-time Active Guard and Reserve positions in support of the Air Force Reserve Command and the Air National Guard. The additional high-grade authorizations, which took effect Oct. 1, are: 20 colonels, 75 lieutenant colonels, 88 majors, 97 chief master sergeants and 76 senior master sergeants. The Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard will divide up the increases, based upon their original requests.

The authorization bill, however, was not as generous with the overall Selected Reserve end strength for the Air Force Reserve. The FY 2001 Defense Appropriations Act, which was signed in August, funded for 74,470 positions but the authorization bill dropped that number to 74,358. Both called for 1,336 full-time AGR members, but the authorization bill added 52 more air reserve technician slots to the 9,733 ARTs funded by the appropriations act.

In a move to beef up sagging recruiting numbers, Congress is giving local education agencies until July 1, 2002, to provide military recruiters access to secondary schools on the same basis as college, universities and private sector employers. The governing body of education agencies can overturn this directive with a majority vote to deny access to the recruiters.

Children of reservists and reserve retirees are eligible for presidential appointments to the service academies on the same basis as children of active-duty and retired active-duty personnel.

Reserve component chiefs three-star billets

In 1999, Congress told DoD it could promote the chiefs and directors of the reserve components to a third star, but the promotions would come from active-duty, three-star authorizations. This year Congress increased the limit on the number of officers who can serve on active duty above the grade of O-8. It also directed DoD to upgrade the chief of Air Force Reserve and the five other reserve component bosses within 12 months of enactment of the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Last year's law stated that future reserve component leaders would have to have joint service experience as defined by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The secretary of defense may waive the joint qualification requirement through FY 2003.

People who retire from military service are sometimes called back on active duty, such as during the Persian Gulf War. Congress added a new wrinkle to that process by allowing a retired active component service member, who later serves and is promoted in an active reserve position, to retire as a member of the retired reserve at the higher grade.

For more information on legislative issues, visit the Office of Air Force Reserve Policy Integration Directorate's public Web site at <http://www.afrc.af.mil>. (AFRC News Service)

Levitow's legacy to live forever

By SrA. Oshawn Jefferson

Air Force Print News

11/17/00 - **SAN ANTONIO** — America lost a hero Nov. 8 when John L. Levitow, enlisted recipient of the Air Force Medal of Honor, died at his home in Connecticut after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 55.

"This was a sad day for our Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch. "John Levitow for years has been woven into the fabric of enlisted heritage. Through his heroic efforts he was the embodiment of our core value 'service before self.' His name has become synonymous with excellence, and his legacy will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all Air Force members today and well into the future."

Levitow received the Medal of Honor after an incident Feb. 24, 1969. At that time, he served as a loadmaster aboard a severely damaged AC-47 gunship over Long Binh, South Vietnam. Suffering from more than 40 shrapnel wounds in his back and legs from a mortar blast, he saw a smoking magnesium flare amid a jumble of spilled ammunition canisters. Despite loss of blood and partial loss of feeling in his right leg, Levitow threw himself on the flare, hugged it close, dragged himself to an open cargo door and hurled the flare out. Almost simultaneously, the flare ignited harmlessly outside the door and away from the munitions.

"Sergeant Levitow served during a war in which heroic acts were commonplace, but by any standard, his courage that night was extraordinary," said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. "His selfless actions saved not only his own life but the lives of seven others. For three decades

he has been an inspiration to all of our airmen — enlisted, officers and civilians."

In recounting the event, Levitow said he remembered the pilot yelling back to the crew, but didn't remember anything after that. All members in the cargo compartment were wounded, according to history reports. The aircraft sustained more than 3,500 fragment holes in the fuselage and a two-foot wide hole through the right wing.

"What I did was a conditioned response," Levitow said about the incident in 1998. "I just did it. The next thing I remembered was seeing the landing strip."

President Richard Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Levitow on Armed Forces Day, May 14, 1970, at the White House.

After his Air Force service, Levitow continued a close relationship with the military. He spent 22 years devoted to veterans affairs and later worked in Connecticut developing and designing veteran programs.

Since his heroics in 1969, the Air Force has honored him in many different ways. He has been a part of the Air



Force Professional Fitness Exam booklet and as any NCO who has pored over the promotion books knows, Levitow was the lowest ranking airman in history to earn the Medal of Honor.

The Levitow Honor Graduate Award is presented to the top professional military education graduate from Air Force Airman Leadership Schools.

The 737th Training Group Headquarters building at Lackland AFB was named in his honor.

Air Mobility Command named a C-17 Globemaster III after the Air Force's most well-known enlisted Medal of Honor recipient in 1998. "The Spirit of Sgt. John L. Levitow" is the first to be named for an enlisted person.

Hurlburt Field, Fla., honored Levitow in 1998 by making him part of their Walk of Fame, which honors Medal of Honor recipients.

"John Levitow was a living legend, a true hero to the Air Force family," said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. "His courageous, selfless combat actions demonstrate the essence of our core values and will forever serve as a standard for individual sacrifices and service. We will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers of comfort and peace are with the Levitow family."

Levitow's burial, with military honors, took place Nov. 17 at Arlington National Cemetery.



Photo by TSgt. Mark Suban

A military caisson, carrying the body of Medal of Honor recipient John L. Levitow, makes the solemn journey through Arlington National Cemetery as the funeral procession follows.

Reservists, families receive same benefits

Continued from Page 1

gram, the government pays all charges for diagnostic, preventive and emergency services. For restorative services, the government picks up 90 percent of the bill for E-1s through E-4s and 80 percent for E-5s and above. The government covers 70 percent of an oral surgery bill for E-1s to E-4s and 60 percent of the tab for E-5s and above.

Reservists and their families will qualify for the same services as above under the new TRICARE Dental Program; however, the government will pay a flat 80 percent for basic restorative coverage.

Services, percentages covered

The program also covers the following services with the government picking up a percentage of the bill:

⊙ Sealants, consultations, office visits and post-surgical services – 80 percent;

⊙ Endodontic and periodontic (E-1 - E-4) – 70 percent;

⊙ Endodontic and periodontic (E-5 and above), and general anesthesia – 60 percent; and

⊙ Prosthodontic, orthodontia, medications, intravenous sedations and other restorative services – 50 percent.

These services include athletic mouthpieces, pulp vitality tests and porcelain veneers.

The maximum benefit coverage will increase from \$1,000 per enrollee per contract year to \$1,200. Reservists and their families will also qualify for orthodontic care – \$1,500 per enrollee per lifetime. There is an age limit for orthodontic care.

Premium costs vary depending on the number of enrollees and the type of plan.

A single enrollment covers one beneficiary – a reservist or a family member of a reservist in the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve, or an active-duty family member. Family enrollment covers two or more eligible family members whose sponsor is a member of the active force, Selected Reserve or IRR. A reservist may enroll independently of his or her family members and will not have to enroll in order for his or her eligible family members to enroll.

There are two types of plans – premium sharing and full premium.

Premium sharing

Under premium sharing, the enrollee covers 40 percent of the monthly premium and the government pays the rest.

The premium-sharing monthly cost for single coverage is \$7.63, with the government paying \$11.45. Under family coverage, the enrollee pays \$19.08 each month. The government share is \$28.61. Members of the Selected Reserve, families of reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 days, and active-duty family members are eligible for the premium sharing plan.

Full premium plan

Service members are responsible for paying all of the

monthly premiums under the full premium plan. This plan covers members of the IRR and dependents of Selected Reserve or IRR members when the reservist is not on active duty for more than 30 days. Single coverage is \$19.08 per month, and family coverage is \$47.69.

The TRICARE Dental Program incorporates a “contingency lock-in waiver,” which means the mandatory 12 month enrollment period does not apply to reservists called to active duty (other than for training) in support of a contingency operation as designated by the secretary of defense.

Affected reservists may enroll their families in the premium sharing plan if their orders specify that they are ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation, as defined by 10 U.S.C. for a period of 31 days or more.

They must elect to enroll in the program and complete the enrollment application within 30 days following entry on active duty or within 60 days following implementation of the program. After enrollment, beneficiaries must remain enrolled and the member must continue paying his or her share of the premiums until the end of the member’s active-duty period in support of the contingency operation or 12 months whichever occurs first.

Premium payments for Selected Reserve members is by payroll deduction. The contract states that family members are directly billed. The contractor directly bills enrollees who do not have an active payroll account or insufficient funds in their account.

Reviews ensure continuous improvement

The first contract year runs from Feb. 1, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. The TRICARE Dental Program will evolve over the five years of the contract with premiums expected to vary slightly from year to year, according to Navy Capt. Lawrence McKinley, TRICARE Management Activity’s senior consultant for dentistry.

“Each option year, we will review what we have and we will improve as we go along if costs will not be increased,” McKinley said.

The contractor must maintain a 35-mile, 21-day appointment access to a general dentist for at least 95 percent of the enrollees in the continental United States. The contractor’s network of doctors must also include specialists, such as pedodontists, oral surgeons and orthodontists. Enrollees will have the option of seeking care from any licensed dentist; however, they may incur additional fees.

Survivor benefits are available for eligible family members if they are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program at the time of the sponsor’s death.

United Concordia began marketing and answering questions about the new TRICARE Dental Program in the fall of 2000. Beneficiaries with questions about the program can visit the company’s Web site at <http://www.ucci.com> or call 1-800-866-8499.

(AFRC News Service from TRICARE and DOD news releases)

Airman turns to God's work as chaplain

By Maj. Tom Deall
Chief of public affairs

Starting his career affecting the flight of aircraft as an enlisted maintenance controller, Capt. David Pendleton of the 9018 Air Reserve Squadron, HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, Colo., now affects the flight of souls as a Reserve chaplain.

Pendleton began his Air Force career in 1981. After completing basic training and technical school, he reported for duty as a maintenance controller with the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Four years later, he answered a higher calling and left active duty to pursue the ministry. However, because of his love and dedication for service to country, within one week of leaving active duty, he accepted a position with the 302nd Airlift Wing, Petersen AFB, Colo., as a maintenance controller. And within another six months, he was hired as an air reserve technician.

In 1988, answering an even stronger call to ministry, Pendleton left for Kansas City and the seminary. He was reassigned to the 442^d Tactical Air Wing at Richards-Gibaur Air Reserve Base.

After completing his master's degree, he received his commission as a second lieutenant chaplain candidate. During his first three years, he served tours at Kirtland AFB, N.M., Petersen AFB, Colo., and Eglin AFB, Fla. By 1992, he was reappointed a first lieutenant chaplain in the Air Force Reserve.

Since then he's served with the US Air Force Academy and HQ ARPC as director, Chaplain Candidate Familiarization Course.

Endorsed by the Church of the Nazarene, Pendleton said the chaplaincy gives breadth of exposure to people of other faiths and denominations.

"I am appreciative of serving in a pluralistic setting," said Pendleton. "I don't see it as a threat to my faith. Rather, I see it as an opportunity to affirm my faith."

Pendleton said he likes working with

others who help to place his denominational identity in the whole history of the Christian church. He said he is grateful for his Air Force experience because it has helped him grow as a person.

"Serving is what I'm all about," said Pendleton. "It's not a choice I made, it's a choice that was made for me."

He sees service in the Air Force as a higher calling because its core values, in his opinion, are steeped in Biblical principles. And that's important because he wants to be a Biblical Christian.

When asked why he chose to stay with the Air Force these many years, his answer was simple.

"I stay because I like it," he said. "I like the Reserve because it's where I can do something different. There are opportunities to expand my ministry in a way not available in civilian service."

'Serving is what I'm all about. It's not a choice I made, it's a choice that was made for me.'



Chaplain (Capt.) David Pendleton

In highlighting those opportunities, Pendleton noted that he could be on a flight line one day and in a tent in the desert the next. And since chaplains are non-combatants, he enjoys not having to carry a weapon.

Another opportunity is ministering to



people of other faiths. Since he contends that a chaplain's first commitment is to God and then the faith group, this does not create conflict. A point emphasized by the fact that very few professions have that kind of freedom.

"An opportunity not available to civilian ministers is service to our country's future leadership," said Pendleton. "It's a ministry that sometimes crosses denominations."

One example of this crossing occurred when a Catholic priest was unavailable for a funeral. Pendleton received and accepted this call to ministry.

"Though a protestant minister, I was honored to lead the congregation during the funeral of a Catholic member," said Pendleton. "I performed this ceremony as I thought Jesus would have done. For that moment, it was more about service to the Lord than it was to myself."

In summarizing why he has served for almost 20 years, Pendleton simply said, "Service to God and service to country are steeped in history and Holy Scripture. For me, there is no greater answer to such a high calling."

Dr. Pendleton currently serves as founding/senior pastor of Christ Community Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kan.

For more information on service as an Air Force chaplain, contact Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald Smith at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71241 or e-mail Donald.Smith@arpc.denver.af.mil.

Conference focuses on better use of IRR

Annual event unites all service branch representatives to discuss best way to manage program of 50,000 reservists

By Maj. Ed Wagnon

Chief, personnel readiness division

Sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, or OASD/RA, and attended by representatives from all branches of service, the Air Reserve Personnel Center commander hosted the 2000 Reserve Personnel Center Commanders'/Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR, Conference in Denver Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

This annual event is designed to bring all service representatives together to discuss the best use of members in the IRR and how best to manage this program which holds more than 50,000 Air Force Reservists.

Though each year brings new challenges to the IRR program, the program and its managers deserve to be commended, according to Leonard Sistik, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Manpower and Personnel.

"Focus here is on the IRR and I'd like to thank you for the work done over the past few years," Sistik said. "No longer is Total Force just lip service. It's now part of our daily business in the Defense Department."

In his closing remarks, Sistik presented a challenge to all attendees. He simply posed the question, "How can we enhance the IRR and impact the entire program in a positive way?" And in a few words, he summarized the entire two-day conference.

Some of the issues that were discussed include:

- Defining the IRR process in hopes of creating uniformity throughout DOD;

- Gathering statistics on the success of IRR screening results; and

- Review of the IRR Strategic Plan and Quantitative Performance Goals.

These are aspects of the IRR that warranted further study and consideration. However, there were many successes over the past year as defined in the legislative 2001 National De-

fense Authorization Act.

According to Dan Kohner, director, Manpower Requirements and Programs, many of these successes had one thing in mind – the people who wear the uniform.

During his presentation to the audience of more than 150 people, he talked about the offer of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance for transitioning ROTC members and recognition of IRR members at the DOD-level.

Kohner also noted that one of the greatest challenges facing managers and commanders is keeping current information. But, it's also one of the top priorities for senior DOD leaders.

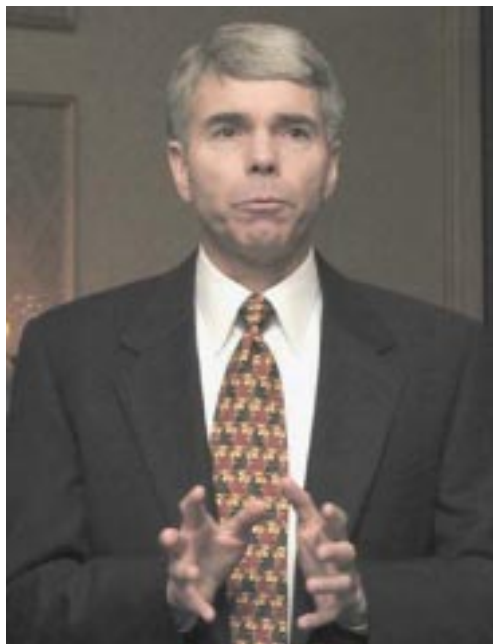
One of the most uplifting presentations was made by Tom Bush, director, Program Integration for Intergovernmental Affairs.

According to Bush, people programs were high on the priority list for leaders in Washington. Among the many items in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act include, as an example, keeping Reserve officers off the active duty list

for three years or less, and providing legal services, for twice the tour length, to reservists and their eligible family members for tours of 30 days or more.

Bush noted that there is a great emphasis on recognizing the impact of reserve force participation with respect to Total Force.

He noted that since reserve forces make up 50 percent of the military strength, the contribution must be acknowledged as significant. Further, it is the position of the Deputy Secretary of



'There is nothing that irritates (the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs) more than someone being treated like a second class citizen.'

Tom Bush

Director,

Program Integration for Intergovernmental Affairs

Defense for Reserve Affairs, Charles Cragin, that reservists have earned and deserve respect worldwide.

"There is nothing that irritates Mr. Cragin more than someone being treated like a second class citizen," said Bush.

As the military moves forward into the 21st century, it is the reserve forces that gain more and more attention. That is why representatives from all branches of service and the civilian leadership gathered in Denver for this year's 2000 Reserve Personnel Center Commanders'/IRR Conference.

For more information on IRR matters, call Maj. Ed Wagnon at (303) 676-6130, DSN 926-6130, or email him at edwin.wagnon@arpc.denver.af.mil.

Briefs

Debt collection assistance

Reservists now have someone to turn to for assistance with TRICARE debt collection concerns.

Debt Collection Assistance Officers, or DCAOs, were established at all lead agent offices and military treatment facilities worldwide July 26 to help reservists understand their collection notices. Reservists who receive a notice from a collection agency or a negative credit report because of a medical or dental bill, should call or visit the nearest DCAO.

Documentation associated with a collection action or adverse credit rating must be submitted to the DCAO, to include debt collection letters, TRICARE explanation of benefits, and medical/dental bills.

The DCAO cannot provide legal advice or fix a member's credit rating, but can assist with the debt collection process by providing the member with documentation for use with the collection or credit reporting agency in explaining the circumstances relating to the debt.

Other resources are in place at lead agent offices and military treatment facilities to help beneficiaries encountering problems with TRICARE claims, but have not been sent to collection agencies or who have questions about the TRICARE program.

To locate the nearest DCAO, visit www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao/.

New medical benefits

Recent legislation provides increased veterans medical benefits to include strokes and heart attacks for reservists performing inactive duty training.

Effective Nov. 1, Title 38 USC, Title III now states, "Strokes and heart attacks incurred or aggravated by members of reserve components in the performance of duty while performing inactive duty training to be considered service-connected."

For more information, contact MSgt. Jeff Alexander or TSgt. Chris Cowan, HQ ARPC/SG, at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71236 or DSN 926-7237.

Veterans cemetery plot allowance

Reservists are now entitled to a \$150 plot allowance in a state veterans cemetery.

A recent change in law authorizes a state owned agency, or political subdivision of a

state cemetery, to receive the allowance for deceased members or former members — except under dishonorable discharge — of the reserve not otherwise eligible for burial in a national cemetery or by a cemetery under the jurisdiction of the United States.

To be eligible, the member must have been admitted for hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care or an institution at which the deceased veteran was receiving care at the expense of the United States.

For more information, contact the Veterans Administration at (800) 827-1000.

RCSBP spousal consent required

Spousal consent is required on all Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan, or RCSBP, elections beginning Jan. 1.

According to Public Law 106-398, once a member is retirement eligible and has signed for their RCSBP package by mail, their spouse must concur in writing with the election before sending the election to HQ ARPC/DPSSE for processing.

The law also states that an automatic coverage of Option C, Immediate Annuity, will be made if:

☐ HQ ARPC/DPSSE does not receive the member's election prior to the 90th day after receipt of the RCSBP package; and

☐ The member has a spouse and/or child/children, that are eligible at the time the member was first eligible.

The change ensures the spouse or child receives an immediate annuity, 55% of what the member would have received in retired pay, if the member dies prior to age 60.

This change to the law supercedes current law that gives an automatic coverage of Option A, Decline Making An Election Until Age 60, if the member didn't return the package within the 90-day suspense.

These changes protect spouses and children and ensure that their needs are met once the member dies. This is another step in quality of life improvements for military members and their families. More information will be made available via the ARPC entitlements branch Web site, located at www.arpc.org, under "Entitlements."

Airline ticket purchases

Reservists must purchase airline tickets through a Government Contracted Ticket Office, GCTO, or traffic management office for all official government travel, states

the Joint Federal Travel Regulation.

Purchasing a ticket from an unauthorized source, such as an airline ticket counter or travel agency not under contract with the government, will result in non-payment of airline ticket expenses, unless the reservists can prove they had no other option.

Given the on-going publication of this policy, the GCTO 24-hour-a-day-service, and the fact WOTS requires acknowledgement of the policy prior to allowing submission of a tour request, it is difficult to prove no other option was available.

ARPC has established a GCTO for IMAs and participating individual ready reservists through Omega World Travel. IMAs can make reservations using the government travel card. Most GCTOs require a copy of orders to provide airline tickets. However, ARPC's contract with Omega allows IMAs to charge the cost of the ticket to their government charge card, as long as the orders are in process.

Contact Omega World Travel at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71326, or DSN 926-5850 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. MST. After duty hours, call (800) 285-6342 and use reference code C-1LQ. Copies of orders may be faxed to (303) 676-5299.

After making reservations, an itinerary will be sent via fax or e-mail approximately three days prior to travel. IMAs should contact Omega World Travel immediately if they haven't received their itinerary three days prior to departure. Ticketing problems should be directed to the GCTO prior to travel to ensure reimbursement.

Dobbins pay office e-mail

The Dobbins Air Reserve Base pay office has a new organizational and customer service e-mail address.

The address is imatravel@dobbins.af.mil. They can also be reached at (800) 808-5942, or DSN 925-5800/5237.

Travel card payment options

Reservists have several options for paying their Bank of America Government Travel Card bill. They are:

☐ Split disbursement. By annotating split disbursement on their travel voucher, Reservists designate the amount of money to be electronically transmitted directly to their travel card account. The account will

See **BRIEFS**, Page 10

ARPC explains WOTS status notices

By Carol Klein

Financial management

One of the biggest features of the Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS, is the ability to check the status of order requests on-line. The "Look Up Order Request" command allows IMAs to check on the progress of their request at any time.

Users should check the status of a request prior to attempting to submit a change/amendment to the request. The system allows users to make changes to the request under the "Look Up Order Request" command, as long as they have ownership of the request. IMAs should use the "Revise/Amend" command only when they no longer have ownership of the request.

To review:

☒ Pending program manager review. A request has been saved but not accessed by the program manager. The IMA has ownership of the request, and can make any changes to the request via the "Look Up Order Request" command. View the request, make changes, and save changes by clicking on the "Submit Request" button. Do not use the "Revise/Amend" command.

☒ Under program manager review. The program manager, or PM, has opened the request and is currently reviewing it. The PM has ownership at this point, and can make any changes to the request without submitting a revision/amendment. The IMA would make changes to the request via the "Revise/Amend" command, as they no longer have direct ownership.

☒ Disapproved. The PM has reviewed and disapproved the request. Do not call ARPC: The tour was disapproved by the PM under normal circumstances. Access the request via the "Look Up Order Request" command, and view the "Remarks" section to see why the request was disapproved. No one can make changes to a disapproved request. A new request must be submitted.

☒ Pending cross command approval. The PM has approved

the request using another major command's funds, and the other command has not yet approved the request. The PM has ownership at this point.

☒ Pending ARPC review. The PM has approved the request and the ARPC order technician, or OT, has not accessed it. The PM has ownership at this point.

☒ Under ARPC review. An OT has accessed the request and has it for processing. ARPC now has ownership of the request. Both IMAs and PMs would have to use the "Revise/Amend" command to make changes.

☒ On hold pending program manager approval of revision. A revision has been submitted, but it has not been reviewed and approved by the PM. The PM has ownership at this point.

☒ Returned to program manager for review. An OT has returned the request to the PM for correction/consideration. The PM has ownership at this point.

☒ Order published. The order has been published, and the order number is in the system. Ownership is not applicable, as the request is complete. Any user would have to submit a change via the "Revise/Amend" command. If a published order number and date appear, the order is about to be or has been mailed. Please factor in mailing time before calling ARPC to request a faxed copy.

☒ On hold pending funding/quota. Money is not currently available for a school tour request, or the quota is not currently available. ARPC has ownership at this point.

If ARPC has received the tour request from the PM at least 30 days before travel is to begin, the orders should arrive in the mail approximately five days prior to the travel date. Please do not call ARPC for a faxed copy of orders before that point. If an employer requires official notification of reserve duty prior to five days before travel, the program manager can provide a letter which meets the regulatory requirements of this notification.

BRIEFS from Page 9

reflect the payment posted at midnight of the settlement day. The remainder of the amount owed is direct deposited to the member's account. This is the preferred option for most customers.

☐ Mail payment. IMAs can mail their payments to Bank of America at the address included with the bill, which is Bank of America, Government Card Services, P.O. Box 53139, Phoenix AZ 85072-3139.

☐ Express mail. Customers may express mail payments to Bank of America Government Card Services, 1825 E. Buckeye Road, Phoenix AZ 85034-4216.

☐ Wiring payment. Payments can be wired to Bank of America, 901 W. Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28255. Reservists must include ABA: 053000196, Acct No: 1093600387600, and specify: BankCard Payment.

☐ Quick Collect. "Quick Collect" is available through Western Union by call-

ing (800) 325-6000. The Code City is BankCard, VA. The current fee is \$11.95.

☐ Late payment. Reservists should call Bank of America's Customer Service number on the back of their card, (800) 472-1424, if they are late making a payment. This payment option ensures posting within 24 - 48 hours. Member must provide name, account number, phone number, name of their bank, check routing number, check number, date and amount of payment.

Retired pay forms

Reservists will receive retirement pay application forms approximately four months prior to their 60th birthday.

The pay application forms will be mailed to the address listed in the Personnel Data System, thus it is imperative that Reservists keep their mailing address current. Mailing addresses can be corrected by contacting the ARPC customer service branch

at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71388.

Former members, those discharged in lieu of transfer to the Retired Reserve, must request pay application forms by contacting the retirement eligibility division at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71270/71272.

Retirement questions via e-mail

Reservists can have their retirement questions answered efficiently via e-mail.

Retirement technicians are ready to answer questions on:

☐ Applying for transfer to the Retired Reserve

☐ Applying for Retired Pay at age 60

☐ 20-year notification letter

☐ Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage at age 60

☐ Computing retired pay

Reservists can locate their retirement technician on the ARPC Web site, www.arpc.org, under "Retirements."

Legal news

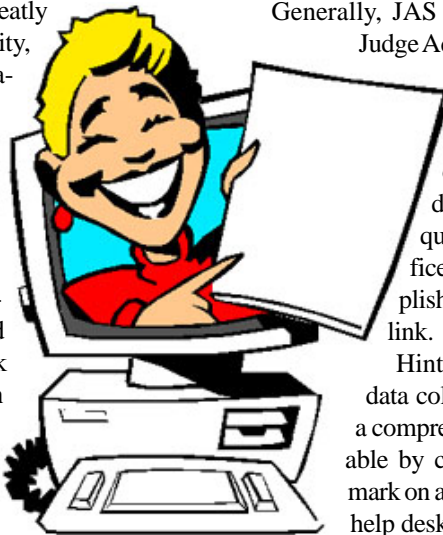
By CMSgt. Deborah Fischer
ARPC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

NewWebFLITE Roster

TJAG's department personnel Roster was released via WebFLITE in October, which includes active duty, Guard and Reserve. The new database greatly increases the reliability, and quality of information available.

AFLSA/JAS programmers attempted to move data from the old Air Force Reserve Command database to the new Roster, but they found problems due to a lack of data standardization and validation in the old roster. Therefore it is important reservists access the roster and correct any erroneous or missing data. Verifying the social security number should be reservists' top priority since it ensures the identity and uniqueness of each record.

In the event the database lists the incorrect unit of attachment, reservists must con-



tact the law office manager, or LOM, from the losing office to place the reservist in transition. Once that is completed, contact the current LOM to request addition to the office listing. Only LOMs have the authority to add or delete people from office rosters.

Generally, JAS recommends using the Judge Advocate Management Information System, or JAMIS, for routine searches for people and offices. Editing personal data, performing special queries, and managing office information are accomplished through the "Roster" link.

Hints are provided on each data collection page. However, a comprehensive manual is available by clicking on the question mark on any page. In addition, JAS help desk specialists are prepared to answer questions. They can be reached at DSN 493-3008/4179 or (334)953-3008/4179.

Status of orders

Reservists whose order request is denied through WOTS are reminded to go back into

WOTS and check the remarks section for an explanation of the reason for denial. It may simply be that the request is an MPA tour and will be processed manually by HQ ARPC/JA.

Although reservists can obtain more detailed information on the status of their orders through WOTS (except MPA tours), they can also continue to check the orders spreadsheets for both judge advocates and paralegals through WebFLITE.

Law Office Manager's Course

Paralegals interested in applying for the Law Office Managers Course must submit a written request stating their reasons for desiring the course. Law office managers must endorse the request recommending approval or disapproval. The request must reach HQ ARPC/JA by April 15. After the board makes the selections, attendees will be notified to submit their WOTS requests.

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Denver, CO 80280-5200

Medical profession news

Did you know?

❖ The ARPC Web site, www.arpc.org, is the primary means of communication with IMAs.

❖ Reservists wishing to volunteer for an augmentation vacancy should visit the ARPC Web site, www.arpc.org, and select "Health Services" and then "MPA."

❖ Opportunities for headquarters (or higher) attachments are advertised on the ARPC Web site under "Health Services" and then "SGE."

❖ Annual tour orders requests must arrive at ARPC by June 30 every year.

❖ The unit commander must justify split annual tours, especially when there are travel costs involved. This information must be included in the remarks section of the Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS.

❖ Rental cars must be fully justified with a cost comparison in the remarks section.

❖ IMAs serving on orders, but haven't filed for pay and travel, should file all paperwork to ensure proper credit.

❖ DD Form 1351-2 are filed at Dobbins AFB, Ga. IMAs must use the government credit card for expenses including airfare, lodging, rental cars and registration.

❖ Nominations that require professional military education, or PME, endorsement should include suggested comments.

❖ ARPC/SG funds one continuing medical education, or CME, course per year, per IMA. Funded CMEs must enhance readiness skills in the member's AFSC.

Military CME

The 15th Military Medicine Conference, June 4-7, is posted on the ARPC Web site at www.arpc.org. Select "Health Ser-

vices" and then "USUHS" under SGE.

For more information on the 2001 Video Endoscopy and Ultrasound Courses for Military and Federal Surgeons at USUHS, contact Deona Minor at (301) 295-1540 or DSN 295-1540.

Hail

A hearty welcome to ARPC/SG's new deputy director, Lt. Col. Barbara Johnston, who came to ARPC from AFRC/SG.

POC: HQ ARPC/SG
MSgt. Delores Sepulveda
(800) 525-0102, Ext. 71232
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Denver, CO 80280-7000

Career management news

Pagereceivesfacelift

The Training, Education and Classification page has a new name — “Career Management News.” It has been a little more than a year since Col. Pat Quisenberry became the director of assignments at the Air Reserve Personnel Center. Quisenberry and her DPA management team have set in motion some process improvement changes and this is one of them.

“The career management news page will take us to the next level and provide timely information from all areas of the directorate,” Quisenberry said. “Not only will you continue to get education/training information, but there will also be assignment, career development, sustainment and readiness information as well.”

DPA’s mission is to provide centralized assignment processing and career development counseling to all categories of reservists and active force members.

“We hope that this information will bring greater insight to the nature of our work and DPA’s mission so that we may serve our customer base better,” Quisenberry noted.

Lossmanagementpolicy

The Air Force Reserve Command implemented a loss management policy for voluntary reassignments, retirements, and separations in March. This policy ensures the Air Force Reserve can complete mission requirements and assist in forecasting voluntary losses from the participating IMA and unit programs. However, the policy does not pertain to the following losses:

- Transfer to any active duty component
- Active Guard Reserve, or AGR
- Extended Active Duty programs
- Transfers from the IMA program to the unit program
- Transfers within the IMA program
- Transfers within the unit program
- Discharge for Expiration Term of Service, or ETS (no remaining military service obligation commitment)
- Retirement at high-year-of-tenure date
- Retirement at Mandatory Separation Date, or MSD
- Retirement at ETS

The six-month projected effective date applies to a voluntary separation or retirement request unless it meets the above criteria. For example, if a reservist requests reassignment to the ANG and it is approved

Jan. 15, the effective date of transfer would be July 15, unless a waiver is approved for an earlier effective date.

Requests for waiver of this policy must be processed through the appropriate channels for approval/disapproval. IMAs should forward requests to their program manager for recommended approval/disapproval.

The program manager forwards to HQ ARPC/DPA for final approval/disapproval. Questions should be directed to the IMA program manager.

SeniorenlistedIMASymposium

Nominations are now being accepted by IMA program managers for the first-ever Enlisted IMA Symposium and Senior NCO Leadership Course, to be held April 20-22 at ARPC in Denver.

The symposium consists of a one-day orientation workshop and a two-day dynamic leadership course presented by Air Force Reserve Command certified facilitators.

Master sergeant through chief master sergeants are eligible to attend. Nominees must have a minimum 18 months of retainability from class graduation date and meet all mandatory Air Force standards.

Applicants must complete an ARPC Form 27, which is available via the ARPC Web site, www.arpc.org. Approved/completed applications are forwarded through the unit of attachment to the IMA program manager for endorsement. Each program manager may nominate a primary and an alternate. A selection board at ARPC will announce selectees by March 15.

For more information, contact TSgt. Charles Benson or Orlando Medina, HQ ARPC/DPAT, at (800) 525-0102, Ext.

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71330; DSN 926-6396, or e-mail arpc.dpatmiltng@arpc.denver.af.mil.

Airmancommissioningprogram

The Not on Extended Active Duty Deserving Airman Program is a commissioning program for enlisted members of the Air Force Reserve who are currently participating as an IMA.

Applications should be forwarded to HQ ARPC/DPABA for processing. For specific details on application procedures, refer to AFI 36-2005, para 2.13 – 2.17. IMAs can also access a checklist at www.arpc.org, under “Reserve Appointments.”

Three restrictions apply for this program:

- Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree;
- A member will only be commissioned in the grade of second lieutenant; and
- An applicant must be less than 35 years old at the time of commission unless an exception to policy is approved.

Approved applicants attend the Academy of Military Science course at McGhee Tyson ANG Base, Tenn.

For more information, IMAs should contact their BIMAA or HQ ARPC/DPABA, at (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71291.

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DENVER CENTER

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DENVER, CO 80280-1010

OFFICIAL BUSINESS